(SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was an official visit from 11-1-93 to 27-1-93 for the purpose of technical discussions and consultation.

Illegal detention of Lt. Colonel R. Vats

2009. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report which appeared in the Pioneer dated 3rd January, 1993 regarding illegal detention, arrest and torture of Lt. Colonel R. Vats (posted at Leh) in a Chandigarh Police Station in October, 1992;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiries and if so, the results thereof;

(d) whether Government have issued any instructions to the State Governments that the police authorities should inform the army outhorities before detaining/arresting an army officer, and if so, what are the details of such instructions;

(e) whether these instructions are followed by the State Police auhorities; and

(f) what action has been taken against the Senior Superintendent of Police, Chandigarh, who illegally detained and tortured the army officer referred to above?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) An incident of firing had occurred in Chandigarh on the evening of 17th October, 1992. Lt. Col. Vats, who was on leave, was a bystander at the scene of the occurrence when the local Police arrived there to enquire into the incident. As a result of an altercation which ensued, Lt. Col. Vats was manhandled and then taken to the Police Station and detained over-night.

Folliwing an enquiry conducted by the Chandigarh Administration into the event, a senior Police Officer has been repatriated to his parent cadre and Departmental action has also been initiated against him.

Detailed instructions from Ministry of Home Affairs to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations already exist concerning the manner of disposal of cases in which Armed Forces personnel are involved.

Missile Fitters Course

2010. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) wheher it is a fact that some Missile fitters course of degree level is being conducted;

(b) if so, the details of this course viz. curriculum, duration, eligibility criteria and stipend during the course;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some other courses of degree level are also being conducted; and

(d) if so, the details of these courses viz., curriculum, duration, eligibility criteria and stipend during each course?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) While various types of courses are being conducted for the training of Defence Personnel, to enable them to perform their functions, these do not include degree level courses for missile fitters. The curriculum duration and eligibility criteria for various courses are determined keeping in view their specific requirements.